

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 164913
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL:JFC
APPROVED BY NEA - MR. ATHERTON
NEA/ARN MR. DRAPER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
S/S-O:TGMARTIN

-----061318 150228Z /64

P R 150015Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 164913

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, SY, IS

SUBJECT: SYRIAN CONCERN RE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS POLICY IN
THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

REF: DAMASCUS 4365

1. SYRIAN AMBASSADOR QABBANI REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH
ATHERTON ON SHORT NOTICE AND CALLED MORNING JULY 13 TO EX-
PRESS CONCERN OF DAMASCUS AT RECENT ISRAELI RADIO REPORT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 164913

THAT ISRAEL PLANS ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENTS IN GOLAN HEIGHTS.
QABBANI SAID ISRAELI STATE RADIO HAD ANNOUNCED JULY 11 OR
12 PLANS FOR ESTABLISHING FOUR NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THAT
AREA, BRINGING TOTAL, ACCORDING TO QABBANI'S ESTIMATES, TO
ABOUT THIRTY. QABBANI STRESSED THAT REPORTED ANNOUNCEMENT
ACQUIRED NEW DIMENSION WITH BEGIN GOVERNMENT IN CONTROL AND
APPEARS TO AMOUNT TO AN OFFICIAL ISRAELI GOVERNMENT POLICY.

HE ADDED THAT THE NEW SETTLEMENTS, WHICH ARE ALLEGEDLY TO BE SITUATED ALONG THE OUTER EDGES OF ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TERRITORY, RAISE IN SYRIAN MINDS ADDITIONAL DOUBTS RE THE READINESS OF THE ISRAELIS TO NEGOTIATE A PEACE SETTLEMENT AND SUGGESTS THAT BEGIN'S TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS ARE NOT CONFINED TO THE WEST BANK ALONE.

2. ATHERTON REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE REPORTED ANNOUNCEMENT RE GOLAN SETTLEMENTS, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOTED SOME DISCUSSION IN THE PRESS OF ALLEGED ISRAELI PLANS ON THE WEST BANK. IN RESPONSE TO QABBANI'S SUGGESTION THAT THE USG MIGHT ISSUE A STATEMENT OF CONDEMNATION RE THE REPORTED ANNOUNCEMENT, ATHERTON REMINDED QABBANI THAT THE US POSITION OF OPPOSITION TO ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAS BEEN MADE AMPLY CLEAR, BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY. IT IS EQUALLY TRUE, HE CONTINUED, THAT OUR PUBLIC POSITION ON THIS ISSUE HAS NOT PRODUCED THE DESIRED RESULTS IN INFLUENCING ISRAELI POLICY, BUT THE PRACTICAL PROBLEM IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF DEALING WITH THIS DIFFERENCE.

3. WHEN QABBANI EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT A U.S. CONDEMNATION IN THE STRONGEST AND CLEAREST TERMS WOULD BE DESIRABLE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE FORTHCOMING BEGIN VISIT, ATHERTON STATED THAT THE U.S. PURPOSE DURING THIS VISIT AND THE SECRETARY'S SUBSEQUENT TRIP TO THE AREA

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 164913

WILL BE TO PURSUE THE OBJECTIVE OF ACHIEVING A REAL PEACE THAT WILL INCORPORATE ALL THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS, INCLUDING WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. REMINDING QABBANI THAT THE U.S. POSITION HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN THAT ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THESE TERRITORIES CANNOT BE A FACTOR IN PREJUDGING THE OUTCOME OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, ATHERTON SAID THE SYRIANS COULD ASSUME THAT THE QUESTION OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE COURSE OF THE BEGIN VISIT. HE ASSURED QABBANI FURTHER THAT THE USG TAKES THIS ISSUE VERY SERIOUSLY AND UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY THE CONTENT OF THE SYRIAN DEMARCHE TO THE SECRETARY'S ATTENTION.

4. IN CONCLUSION, QABBANI EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE POSITIVE SIGNALS IN RECENT WEEKS HAVE EMANATED EXCLUSIVELY FROM THE ARAB STATES. ATHERTON NOTED THAT THESE POSITIVE ARAB SIGNALS HAVE BEEN OF ASSISTANCE TO PRESIDENT CARTER IN HIS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE PROGRESS IN THE PEACE PROCESS. HE ADDED THAT THE FIRST DISCUSSIONS NEXT WEEK WITH BEGIN WILL PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THE ISRAELI POSITION AND THAT WE APPROACH THIS MEETING AND THE SECRETARY'S TRIP WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IDENTIFYING ELEMENTS

OF AGREEMENT THAT WILL PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR THE RENEWAL
OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. FOR TEL AVIV: WE HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN TRACKING
DOWN THE TEXT OF ISRAELI STATEMENT WHICH APPARENTLY FORMS
BASIS NOT ONLY FOR QABBANI'S APPROACH BUT FOR KHADDAM'S
REMARKS IN DAMASCUS (REFTEL). WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PRO-
VIDING TEXT BY CABLE AND INCLUDING ANY RELEVANT BACKGROUND
INFORMATION AVAILABLE RE GOI PLANS FOR OR ANNOUNCEMENT OF
NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE GOLAN. VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND SETTLEMENT, POLICIES, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE164913
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WNHOWELL:JFC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770251-1071
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770752/aaaabszw.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6841c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 DAMASCUS 4365
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1847493
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN CONCERN RE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS POLICY IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS
TAGS: PBOR, SY, IS
To: DAMASCUS TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6841c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009